



CEMETERIES TRUST FUND

Cemeteries Trust Fund purpose is to provide resources for the management and maintenance of Highland Park and Jamesburg cemeteries

Overview

The Cemeteries Trust Fund is a self-sustaining fund supported by the sale of interment and monument permits. Grave openings are coordinated through the Finance Department, while cemetery management and maintenance is coordinated through the Park Department.

In 1982 the city voluntarily took over the ownership of Highland Park cemetery from Wichita Cemetery Company. Highland Park is the earliest Sedgwick County cemetery of record, located west and north of 13th Street and Hillside. The first burial was that of Albert Lewellen, age 5, in 1870, the same year the small frontier town of Wichita was incorporated. Today approximately 17,000 people are buried at Highland Park Cemetery. In addition to four Kansas governors, perhaps the most nationally recognized individual buried at Highland Park is Buffalo Bill Mathewson, the original Buffalo Bill.



Cemetery management and maintenance is coordinated through the Park and Recreation Department.

From 1873 to 1880, what is currently Jamesburg Cemetery was a post office in the small village by the same name. Jamesburg cemetery was taken over by the City a couple of years after the Highland Park became a city property.

Finance and Operations

In addition to revenue from the sale of interment and monument permits, the Cemeteries Trust accumulates a significant portion of its annual income from interest earnings on the fund's cash balance. The interest earnings typically allow revenues to outpace expenditures on a year-to-year basis, adding to the fund's balance and providing resources for capital improvements at each of the cemeteries, as needed.

Cemetery mowing and grounds maintenance are contracted with a private vendor through the Park Department. Cemeteries are mowed approximately fifteen times each year with special attention for Memorial Day. No positions are funded by this trust fund

Cemeteries Trust Fund Budget Summary

	2000 Actual	2001 Adopted	2001 Revised	2002 Adopted	2003 Approved
Cemeteries Trust Revenue	68,347	52,710	55,100	52,170	52,170
Contractual Services	21,650	28,400	28,400	28,400	28,400
Commodities	0	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
Total Cemeteries Trust Expenditures	21,650	29,400	29,400	29,400	29,400
Cemeteries Trust Fund Balance	690,767	737,490	716,470	739,780	763,090